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Aquinas Trackmen Diocesan Champs

By WHIT JOHNSON

Aquinas Institute trackmen swept freshman and "B-Meet" (sophomore and juniors) competition to capture the Rochester Catholic Diocesan Track meet at the Bishop Kearney High School field.

Aquinas' "B" squad scored 52½ points while McQuaid garnered 44½ points for the runner-up position. Bishop Kearney was third with 36 and Cardinal Mooney fourth with 30.

In the freshman meet, the Aquinas fledglings won six of 13 firsts and three seconds to

win the championship trophy with 66½ points. Close behind and threatening all the way was McQuaid with 64½ points.

Aquinas' Derrek Rainey was a double winner in the frosh division. He sailed the 100-yard dash with a time of 16.0 seconds and the 200-yard dash with a time of 34.0 seconds. In the shot put Rainey recorded 39' 3", beating out McQuaid's 37' 3".

Dick Parrinello of Aquinas broke the meet record in the 100-yard dash with a time of 11.0. Steve Jost of Aquinas set a new meet record in the pole vault with a 9-6 performance. Other frosh double winners were John Leonard of Bishop Kearney who covered the 120 High Hurdles in 19.2 ahead of McQuaid's McGraw and the 180 Low Hurdles in 24.0 to edge out McQuaid's Walsh.

Class B double winners included Jerry Elvel of Cardinal Mooney who recorded a 115' 3¼" in the discus and a 46' 8¼" in the shot put, and Dave Dunn of McQuaid who took a first in both the 120 low and 120 high hurdles. Don Hall of Aquinas won both the 100 and 220-yard dashes.

Aquinas also successfully defended its American Legion Relay title at Brighton High School field. Aquinas piled up 19 points to capture the Legion Relays for the third time in four years. Gates-Chili compiled 13 points for runner-up position and Edison Tech was third with 11 points.

Outstanding runners for Aquinas were John Houli anchor man in the mile event; Dick Buerkle who ran brilliantly to overtake McQuaid's Eric Kendrick at the wire to win the two-mile relay and Randy Block who treated the crowd to some spectacular running as he put his school back in contention after trailing badly in the mile medley.

Spencer Speedway Events on Fridays

The Modified Sportsman stock cars at Spencer Speedway are being clocked at as low as 24 seconds per lap around the half-mile asphalt oval on Friday evenings.

This means that they are hitting speeds up to 115 m.p.h. on the track which is at least 50 percent faster than the 1964 season.

Tax Exam

An examination for those seeking to be agents for the Internal Revenue Service will be held in Buffalo Sept. 23 and 24, John E. Foley, Buffalo District Director of Internal Revenue, which services Western New York has announced. The test will establish proof of competence which is required of tax clients at all levels of procedure before the Service. Examination fee is \$25.

He noted the pre-flight check listed to describe the spring Liston: "He's thirty-one, going on forty-one." Mr. Gensel charged that nobody cared to find out Liston's true age or who managed him. Liston claimed his wife was his manager, but Boston authorities claimed he could still be linked to elements barred from boxing.

"It indicated to me," said Mr. Gensel, "that nobody cares what happens to boxing. They don't

Who Cares What Happens in Boxing Ring?

(By Religious News Service)

"A right-hand punch, thrown with phantom force and landing with the thud of a cream puff" spurred countrywide cries of "fake, fake, fake" as the Liston-Clay contribution to non-violent boxing ended at Lewiston, Maine. Congressmen and state legislators, following a lead long urged by churchmen, began new studies on how to abolish or control professional prizefighting.

One sportswriter summed up the alleged fight in this manner: "It will be a long time before anybody weighing over 200 pounds wearing boxing gloves and short pants is no longer regarded as either a coward or a crook."

Fight reporters who had been cynical about the fight's prospects yet wrote reams of promotional-type copy before the contest were also aware that the outrage of boxing fans and legislators is temporary, that when headlines fade and the investigation stories get smaller and hard-to-find, things will return to normal.

As one writer put it, "The argument is on. It will rage forever . . . which is about a month in the boxing business."

Observers pointed out that everything about the Cassius Clay-Sonny Liston championship fight was so incredible that it could hardly have been fixed. From start to finish it was a study in chaos.

The fight was banned in Boston and moved to sleepy little Lewiston when Maine offered a haven for it. Fight night began with a Broadway star providing new words to the National Anthem when, on a nationwide radio hook-up, he forgot the lyrics.

The pre-flight radio program was distinguished only for an odd interview by author Jim Bishop (The Day Christ Died) of a magazine writer on how Lewiston compared with Grace Kelly's Monaco.

Chosen to referee the bout was a former champion who had helped both a previous fight. The knockdown timekeeper was a priest . . . and days after the finish of Liston as a boxer nobody knew for sure how long the round had lasted. All that was certain was that the timekeeper's estimate of "1 minute" was as much as a minute off.

Amid the uproar, a Lutheran minister in New York, a clergyman with a "different type" of ministry — to the city's Muslims — came up with the best response of the nation's sports fans. Said the Rev. John Gensel, a Lutheran Church in America minister: "The Clay-Liston farce points to the sick state of the nation, the great need for controls."

He noted the pre-flight check listed to describe the spring Liston: "He's thirty-one, going on forty-one." Mr. Gensel charged that nobody cared to find out Liston's true age or who managed him. Liston claimed his wife was his manager, but Boston authorities claimed he could still be linked to elements barred from boxing.

"It indicated to me," said Mr. Gensel, "that nobody cares what happens to boxing. They don't

care about human beings and they don't care how the public may be defrauded. We're more concerned about examining horses before they race than boxers before they box."

A sometime fight fan who once boxed himself, the Lutheran minister admitted that the "idea of destroying another person" is a great deal.

He hoped it would be outlawed — yet, at the same time, "I'm a watcher with mixed feelings."

The Clay-Liston debacle, Mr. Gensel held, may have been a "blessing in disguise," something so "crass and incredible" that boxing "will be banned completely or examined in such a way that it will be more healthy." He discounted the charge of "fake," but stressed that the fact that such a charge was made was indicative of the sport's sickness.

Church comments on boxing have been generally of a condemning nature.

Vatican Radio, commenting on deaths in the ring, once said that "people are asking again what right a boxing ring has to export athletes to the risk of death." It held that no official Church statement was required "since the principles of the natural law are clear and it takes only intelligence and an unbiased mind to examine them."

America, the national Catholic weekly, three years ago emphasized that the public's indignation is a transient thing, that seldom does it last long enough to bring prohibition or proper control of boxing by Congress or the states.

Father Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., former professor of moral theology at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., long ago cautioned that boxing was "difficult to reconcile with Catholic principles." Father George R. Bern



Poland Spring, Me. — (RNS) — Sonny Liston, key figure in the most controversial heavyweight championship fight in history, visits with an old friend, Father Alois J. Stevens, pastor of St. Lawrence's church, Monett, Mo. Father Stevens, who went to Lewiston, Me., to watch Liston's ill-fated bout with champion Cassius Clay, is credited with introducing Liston to boxing — at a time when the onetime champion was famed only as a jailbird.

ard, C.S.C., a member of the theology department of the University of Notre Dame, has condemned prizefighting as against the Fifth Commandment, which not only forbade killing either oneself or another, but "injuring another unjustly or committing injury to oneself."

When former heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson was received into the Catholic Church, he reportedly told his confessor that he would give up fighting if the Church declared it immoral. The response was negative; he continued his career as a boxer.

Government control of boxing was urged several years ago by a prominent Protestant churchman, Dr. Oscar A. Benson, one-time president of the former Augustana Lutheran Church. He called for an end to "mob control" of boxers, for better rules to assure the health and physical caliber of professional boxers, investigations of managers and handlers, and built-in controls that would benefit both athlete and public.

The general Protestant stand on prizefighting may be reflected by the hundreds of local Young Men's Christian Associations which have long discouraged boxing. The "Y" does not promote the sport. It is also noteworthy that three years ago the Catholic Youth Organization operated by the Archdiocese of New York dropped boxing from its sports program.

The state of boxing, however, is but a major symptom of sickness developing in all sports — and as such is regarded by many as a threat to America's youth. The "cribbing scandals" involving both West Point and Air Force Academy football players added no luster to athletics. The disciplinary action taken against colleges for "recreational" practices — cars, cash, that boxing was "difficult to reconcile with Catholic principles" — would denote a general

"draft" 17 and 18-year-old boys this year. At least one parent who already has a boy in the big leagues threatens legal action if a team he does not approve of "drafts" his other youngsters. Other observers ask: What teen-aged boy just out of high school, will be able to reject the "draft" of a glamorous major league team and go on to college?

Mr. Gensel, whose "jazz ministry" gives him access to the sports crowd, predicts that the Clay-Liston mess may well prod the U.S. public to take steps to provide safeguards in all forms of sport.

Boxing should be first, he holds, and the incidents that followed the championship bout would indicate the validity of his criticism. After the first bout between Liston and Clay, it was discovered that a contract actually made Liston Clay's "employer."

Liston, although he periodically turned to Jesuit priests in Denver, Colo., for guidance, was "in trouble" with police authorities throughout his tenure as champion. His previous record included 19 arrests, imprisonment for armed robbery and beating up a patrolman. His was a poor "image" for the sport.

Clay, who has taken the name of "Muhammad Ali," has been active in a promotional sense, in the cause of the Black Muslims, a racist group of extremists rejected by American Negro civil rights organizations. Although originally financed and aided by a Southern group of businessmen, his activities now are reported to be controlled by the Muslims.

This story is told by Milton Gross of the New York Post, noted for long campaigning, for, and encouragement of, Negro athletes. He wrote: "In a day of domination and complete triumph (Clay's victory) by the Black Muslims . . . they made their first overt demonstration of how completely they have taken over the title, which hitherto had been controlled by boxing men and bankers, businessmen and gangsters." When Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) operates, Mr. Gross said, he works surrounded by the Black Muslims.

Yet basketball, particularly the college brand, periodically comes up with "point-shaving" scandals. Poor or money-hungry athletes have been induced by gamblers to "sell out" in a gambling device hard to detect. To "shave points" players need only win — not lose — by scoring fewer points than the point odds indicate. Thus the public, betting on Podunk to win by 18 points, is fleeced as college boys "take it easy" and win by 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

The nation's press is no help in this situation; either, few papers fail to publish the point odds before each game, thus facilitating the work of the gamblers and gambling public.

"The great American game," baseball, fast becoming a television spectator sport, also is having its troubles. TV having killed off local or farm-system baseball, club owners must recruit by direct scouting of athletes at school. They have reached into the colleges and brought heavy criticism upon themselves. Father James E. Sweeters, S.J., of the University of Santa Clara, has charged that "ruthless, persistent" competition among big league scouts has badgered and pestered young college athletes into leaving school to enter pro ball.

Now the emphasis will switch to the high schools — legal or not, big league baseball will report.

Churchmen will, in the main, support state and Congressional investigations of the sport. Most will hope that boxing will be abolished as inhumane, yet most would settle for controls that would rid it of gangster control, politically-picked and incompetent commissions and officials, insufficient health and efficiency examinations.

Yet, like most sports editors and America magazine, they realize that public indignation has little staying power.

In New York, following the death of Benny (Kid) Faret — one of 450 men killed in the ring in the U.S. — the legislature named a committee to clean up the sport, to submit recommendations. The committee came up with little to recommend — when, after running out of money, it wrote its report.

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